25th November 1955]

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: The hon. Member has not evidently heard what I have said. There was a proposal to make B.Sc. the qualification for entry to the Medical Colleges, but that has not been agreed to. The present Intermediate standard will be the qualification for admission to Medical Colleges.

Selection for the S.S.L.C. Examination.

* 2838 *Q.*—SRI K. VINAYAKAM (on behalf of Sri N. Dharmalingam): Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the candidates who appeared and failed in the previous S.S.L.C. Public Examination and continue their studies in the high schools in the next year, are not all selected to sit for the next year S.S.L.C. Public Examination;

(*b*) if so, the number of such candidates, in this State, not selected to sit for the S.S.L.C. Public Examination to be held in March 1955; and

(*c*) whether they are allowed to appear privately to complete the subjects in which they have failed in the previous examination?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) 24.

(*c*) Yes, Sir. The number of times a candidate can appear for S.S.L.C. examination is limited to four times in the case of Non-scheduled castes candidates and five times in the case of Scheduled Caste candidates.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM: Sir, is it not a fact that a student who fails for the first time in the S.S.L.C. examination could not be prevented even by the school authorities in which he undergoes his studies for the second time from appearing for the S.S.L.C. examination for the second time?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I have stated that a student is entitled to sit four times in the case of non-scheduled castes and five times in the case of Scheduled Caste candidates.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Sir, by appearing four times, the student would have gained sufficient experience so that will the Government make it a rule that if he appears for four times, then he must be considered as automatically eligible for the higher class. (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I think that if that principle is accepted, then even a person who stands for the election four times and gets defeated should be declared elected because he has got experience of elections. I do not think it is desirable to adopt that principle. (Continued laughter.)